REMARKS

ITEM 1: OBJECTION TO CLAIM 1 RE "THE MAIN PART"

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's proposal set forth in item 1 of the Action and which is submitted to overcome the objection. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection be withdrawn.

ITEMS 2 AND 3: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2 AND 4 UNDER 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2 FOR INDEFINITENESS

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected for indefiniteness under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2 in items 2 and 3 of the Action. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner is respectfully referred to the specification at page 23, lines 10-16 for a description of the determination of the "no tuner" condition. Particularly, the "no tuner" indication is output: "before the lapse of a predetermined time from the start of the communication between the communication interface unit 2 and the tuner unit 7." (Page 23, lines 10-16) This is a normal operating condition which the system of the invention can detect and, in response to such detection, take appropriate further action. Hence, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection for indefiniteness is misplaced.

Nevertheless, to render this condition altogether clear, the independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended in the foregoing to recite that a control signal is output from the tuner unit--within a predetermined time after said communication starts--.

It is submitted to be apparent, in the currently amended claim 1, that only when a control signal is output from the tuner unit within a predetermined time after a communication with the tuner unit starts, does the main part of the claimed tuner receiving system discriminate the type of the tuner included in the tuner unit.

Therefore, it is submitted that the content of amended claim 1 is not inconsistent with that of dependent claim 2/1.

Similarly, claim 3 is amended by inserting the expression within a predetermined time--, in lines 12-13, between "from said tuner unit" and "after the start of said communication."

It is submitted to be apparent, in the amended claim 3, that a control unit for receiving radio waves by using a tuner comprises a unit for discriminating a type of the tuner included in a tuner unit, only when a control signal is output from the tuner unit within a predetermined time after a communication with the tuner unit starts.

Therefore, it is submitted that the content of the amended claim 3 is not inconsistent with that of dependent claim 4 citing the amended claim 3.

As noted above, the recitations of each of claims 2 and 4, stating that it is determined that no tuner is included in a tuner unit, in the case in which a control signal is not output from the tuner unit before the lapse of the predetermined time from the start of the communication, is supported by the description of the portion from page 23, from lines 10-16, in the specification.

ITEMS 4 AND 5 AT PAGES 2-4 OF THE ACTION: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3 AND 5-6 FOR ANTICIPATION UNDER 35 USC § 102(e) BY NIO ET AL. (6,243,144)

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

NIO ET AL.

The cited reference to Nio et al. discloses a television receiver which comprises a satellite broadcasting tuner 102; a terrestrial broadcasting tuner 103; a switching device 104 for switching between the broadcast programs selected by the satellite broadcasting tuner 102 and the broadcast programs selected by the terrestrial broadcasting tuner 103; a video signal processing device 106 for processing digitized video signals by changing ways of processing the video signals in accordance with the contents of the broadcasting programs supplied from the switching device 104; and a display device 110 for displaying the video signals amplified by an amplifier 109 after having been processed by the video signal processing device 106, typically as shown in Fig. 1.

More specifically, the video signal processing device 106 in the Nio et al. television receiver comprises an operating element array 1 for processing video signals in accordance with commands input from the outside; storage units 201 to 20n for temporarily storing video signals in accordance with the commands input from the outside; and a network 3 for connecting the operating element array 1 to the storage units 201 to 20n in accordance with the commands input from the outside, especially as shown in Fig. 2.

In the disclosed configuration of the Nio et al. video signal processing device 106, as described above, it is possible to produce a flexible connection between the operating element array 1 and the storage units 201 to 20n according to a command which is input from the outside and, therefore, to change ways of processing different kinds of digitized signals according to the command, input from the outside. Consequently, different kinds of digitized signals can be dealt with by using the same hardware.

PRESENT INVENTION

It is respectfully submitted that the cited reference to Nio et al. neither discloses nor suggests a concrete technique for discriminating a type of a tuner included in a tuner unit and displaying all the receiving stations (i.e., all the channel numbers) for the countries that can be received by the tuner, as in the present invention.

More specifically, a main part of a tuner receiving system according to the present invention (especially, the invention related to the first independent apparatus claim 1) is configured so that, in the case in which a first control signal (e.g., an acknowledge signal, ACK) indicating the receipt of a specific address is output from a tuner included in a tuner unit, within a predetermined time after a communication between the tuner unit and a communication interface unit has started, and the specific address has been transmitted from the communication interface unit to the tuner unit, the receiving frequencies (i.e., channel numbers) corresponding to the channels receivable by the tuner are sequentially set for establishing the communication.

In a case in which it is determined that the level of a second control signal (e.g., an auto frequency tuning signal, AFT) returned from the tuner is normal, the type of the tuner is discriminated on the basis of the second control signal. Further, all the receiving stations corresponding to the channels receivable by the tuner are displayed, in accordance with the type of the tuner thus discriminated and information sent from the communication interface unit.

Similarly, a control unit for receiving radio waves by using a tuner comprises a unit for sequentially setting the receiving frequencies corresponding to the channels receivable by the tuner, in the case in which a first control signal (e.g., an acknowledge signal ACK) indicating the receipt of a specific address is output from the tuner included in a tuner unit, within a predetermined time, after a communication between the tuner unit and a communication

interface unit has started and the specific address has been transmitted from the communication interface unit to the tuner unit.

In a case in which it is determined that the level of a second control signal (e.g., an AFT signal) returned from the tuner is normal, the above unit discriminates the type of the tuner on the basis of the second control signal.

The control unit further comprises a unit for displaying all the receiving stations corresponding to the channels receivable by the tuner, in accordance with the type of the tuner thus discriminated and information sent from the communication interface unit.

The above-mentioned first and second characteristic configurations of the present invention are supported by the description in the specification from page 32, line 29 through page 33, line 18.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as currently amended and now pending herein distinguish patentably over the rejections and references of record and, there being no other objections or rejections, that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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